Objective: Justice

A United Nations Review Dedicated to the Promotion of Justice through the Self-determination of Peoples, the Elimination of *Apartheid* and Racial Discrimination, and the Advancement of Human Rights

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Special Issue on Decolonization

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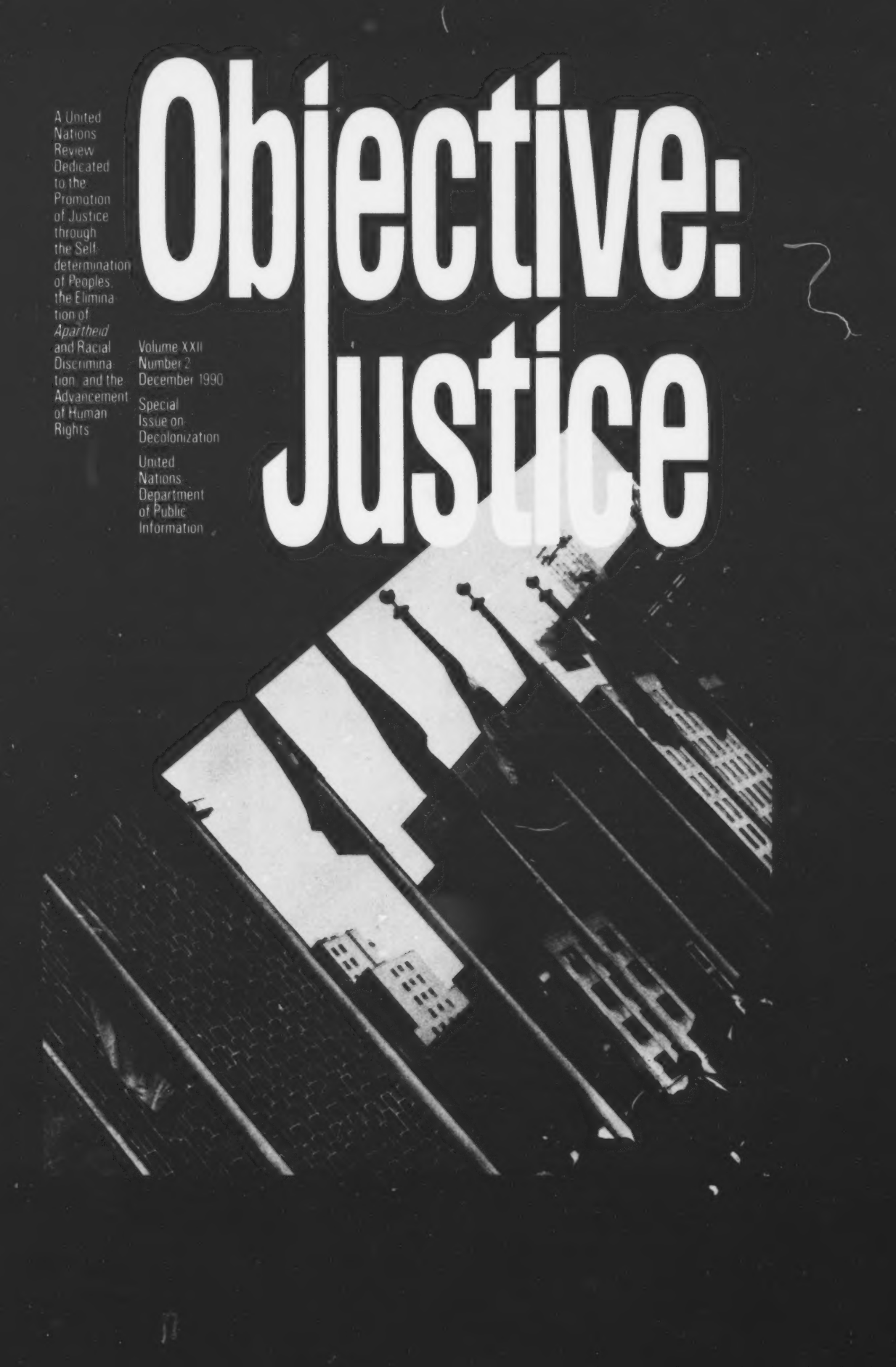

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Complete Decolonization—Objective 2000

If there is one activity above all others that has affected the universality of the United Nations, making it truly representative of the international community of States, it is the process of decolonization—a process that the Organization set in motion in its earliest days. More than half the United Nations current membership of 159 nations were former colonies. This represents the achievement of self-determination by more than 80 million people, leaving fewer than 2 million today who still do not directly govern themselves. They reside in 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories and one Trust Territory.

The process continues. The goal is a world free of dependent Territories by the year 2000.

The United Nations interest in this process is understandable, since the aspirations of the dependent peoples of the world were encouraged by the United Nations Charter itself. Respect for "the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples", set forth in the Charter as one of the purposes of the United Nations, is expanded upon in three separate chapters—XI to XIII—setting out the obligations of Member States responsible for administering dependent Territories. Two separate bodies—the Trusteeship Council and a Special Committee—watch to see that these obligations are carried out:

Trusteeship Council. Chapters XII and XIII established the International Trusteeship System—by which States administering Trust Territories agreed to promote the progressive development of their inhabitants towards self-government or independence—and the Trusteeship Council to help administer that System. The United Nations played its earliest decolonizing role in taking over the supervision of the administration of Mandates of its predecessor organization, the League of Nations, and assumed the same task for Territories detached from States after the Second World War. Expanding on the League's system for supervising

Mandated Territories, the United Nations set up the Trusteeship Council to accept petitions, to hear petitioners and to send visiting missions to the Territories, and it called for annual reports from administering States on conditions in the Territories.

UN Photo

The Trusteeship Council chamber at United Nations Headquarters, New York.

The Trusteeship Council has five members: China, France, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States. These are the same States that are permanent members of the Security Council. Of the original 11 Trust Territories placed under the International Trusteeship System, only one remains: the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Micronesia), designated as a "strategic" Territory. The Charter gave the Security Council responsibility to approve the terms of trust agreements, or their amendment or termination. The other Trust Territories have achieved independence or have chosen to unite with a neighbouring sovereign State.

Special Committee on Decolonization. Chapter XI of the Charter, entitled "Declaration regarding Non-Self-Governing Territories", set out the obligations of administering States towards dependent Territories that were outside the trusteeship framework. The interests of the in-

habitants of the Territories are paramount, and administering States accept as a "sacred trust" the obligation to promote their well-being. Those States are required to send information regularly to the Secretary-General on economic, social and educational conditions in the Territories for which they are responsible.

Thirty years ago, to speed the process of decolonization, the General Assembly proclaimed the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples *(see appendix I below)*. By this document, Member States declared that subjecting peoples to alien subjugation, domination and exploitation was a denial of their fundamental human rights. They also affirmed the right of all peoples to self-determination, forbade armed action or repressive measures against dependent peoples, and called for the transfer of all powers to those peoples in accordance with their freely expressed wishes.

In 1961, the Assembly set up the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of

UN Photo/M. Grant

The Special Committee on Decolonization in session in 1990.

the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples as its main body concerned with

progress of all peoples under colonial rule towards self-determination and independence. Also known as the Special Committee on Decolonization or the Special Committee of Twenty-four, it studies the information submitted by the administering States, makes recommendations on implementing the Declaration, dispatches missions to Territories to get first-hand information, receives communications and hears individuals or representatives of organizations and Governments. It also keeps an eye on foreign businesses and other interests operating in Territories, as well as on military activities there, and their effect on the decolonization process. In some decisions, such as those pertaining to Guam, Bermuda and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, for example, it has reaffirmed its conviction that the administering Power must ensure that the presence of military bases and installations does not hinder the populations from exercising their right to self-determination and independence. It also examines the assistance given to the Territories' people by the organizations and organs of the United Nations system.

Two sub-bodies assist the Special Committee in its work: the Sub-Committee on Small Territories and the Sub-Committee on Petitions, Information and Assistance.

The Special Committee's work is reviewed each year by the General Assembly at plenary meetings and through the Assembly's Fourth Committee, which devotes its work exclusively to decolonization issues. The Fourth Committee's recommendations serve as a basis for Assembly decisions on decolonization.

The Special Committee currently has 25 members: Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Mali, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, USSR, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

The Committee annually reviews the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable. In that connection, it has, since 1972, reviewed the applicability of the Declaration to Puerto Rico and, while it has not made any

recommendation to the General Assembly on the matter, it has affirmed the inalienable rights of the people of Puerto Rico in accordance with the Declaration.

Thirtieth Anniversary of the Declaration: In 1988, the General Assembly recalled that 1990 would mark the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. It also sought to set a time-limit for the attainment of independence by the remaining dependent Territories. Thus, it declared the period 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. In 1989, in addition to calling for a special commemorative meeting of the General Assembly in October 1990 (described in an article below), it asked the Special Committee to prepare the text of a commemorative declaration highlighting the work accomplished during the past 30 years and taking into account the plan of action for the International Decade. The motto for the anniversary was "Complete decolonization—objective 2000".

On 20 November 1990, by resolution 45/33, the General Assembly adopted the text of the commemorative declaration by 124 votes in favour to 2 against (United Kingdom and United States), with 21 abstentions (Belgium, Belize, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Romania and Sweden).

The two States which cast negative votes contended that the text reflected the rhetoric of the past; new thinking and new language were necessary, they said, and they felt that the Special Committee should reconsider its approach to decolonization. They objected to the notion that the only means of concluding the process of self-determination was independence.

Others, which abstained, said they felt the text did not take into account positive developments that had taken place in South Africa; they considered that the recent independence of Namibia had removed the question of *apartheid* from the decolonization agenda. *(For the text of the commemorative declaration, see appendix II.)*

Observing 30 Years of Decolonization

Decolonization is not enough if it is not accompanied by respect for human rights, General Assembly President Guido de Marco, of Malta, said on 10 October 1990.

UN Photo/M. Grant

Guido de Marco, of Malta, President of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

De Marco, Malta's Minister for Foreign Affairs, was speaking at a solemn meeting of the Assembly held to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which the Assembly had adopted on 14 December 1960. The meeting was the final event of a year-long series of activities carried out to observe the anniversary.

That Declaration "was not voted in a vacuum," De Marco recalled. "[It] was drafted and approved by an international community which was becoming more and more aware of the importance of ensuring individual human rights and dignity. In 1948 the same General Assembly over which I now have the honour to preside spelled out a warning: 'disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind'...

"Let us today," he added, "renew our efforts and commitments in resolving in harmony and co-operation the colonial vestiges of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories; not disregarding our responsibility, however, towards those people who rightfully feel cheated when the full sovereignty of the State is not matched by full respect for the obligations imposed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights".

De Marco stressed the role of the Declaration on decolonization, and of the United Nations body monitoring its application. "The 1960 Declaration," he said, "is in itself a landmark, for it has...contributed in no small manner to fulfilling the peoples' aspirations to the full enjoyment of freedom and the independence of their homelands...

"The process of decolonization has seen the emergence of 80 new States," he said. "Many of us here have lived through and contributed towards this process, and hence cherish the memory of the day when our countries became sovereign States."

He recalled that 750 million people were living under colonial rule in 1945, while in 1990 only about 2 million live in Non-Self-Governing Territories.

The Special Committee on Decolonization plays an important role, de Marco said. "Established in 1961 to monitor the implementation of the 1960 Declaration on decolonization, the Special Committee over the years has assiduously pursued its assigned task and considered the situation in no less than 46 Non-Self-Governing Territories... Time has proved that, with political will and mutual co-operation on the part of all concerned, questions concerning Non-Self-Governing Territories can be settled peacefully."

According to United Nations Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, "the international community has every reason to be proud of the important role that it has played in helping the peoples of former colonial Territories to win their freedom.

"In the years that have elapsed since the Declaration was adopted, the world has witnessed one of the most remarkable developments of our time: 59 Trust and

Non-Self-Governing Territories...have been enabled to exercise their right to self-determination...

"As a result of the process of decolonization, today the United Nations is a far more representative and stronger body than it was three decades ago," he said.

UN Photo/M. Grant

UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, at left, and Special Committee on Decolonization Chairman Tesfaye Tadesse.

The Special Committee, he observed, "has discharged with great credit its special responsibilities for monitoring the implementation of the Declaration. It has succeeded in mobilizing international support for the legitimate aspirations of the colonial peoples...

"The United Nations continues to uphold its commitment to the political, economic and social advancement of the remaining 18 Non-Self-Governing Territories," he added. "The objectives set forth in the Declaration continue to be applicable to them today as they were when that historic document was adopted."

For Special Committee Chairman Tesfaye Tadesse, of Ethiopia, "realism in approach is necessary to chart an

effective course of action that will enhance the objectives of decolonization in the case of these remaining Territories...

"The approach we adopt," he said, "should take due account of the specific needs and particular conditions of the Territories concerned. In its annual review...the Committee has endeavoured to assess the full extent of such peculiarities in an attempt to determine the stage reached by the Territories, in particular in the conduct of their respective affairs and in the broader area of self-government...

"It is my earnest hope that, as the Assembly meets during the course of this final decade of the twentieth century, the Committee of Twenty-four will be able to report that no more Non-Self-Governing Territories remain on its list," the Chairman concluded.

UN Photo

Ambassador Ibrahim Gambari, of Nigeria, Chairman of the Special Committee against *Apartheid*.

Ibrahim Gambari, of Nigeria, Chairman of the Special Committee against *Apartheid*, said that the Declaration had "set the framework and direction for the political, economic and social developments that dominated the agenda of international, and even national, politics in the following 30 years..."

Representatives of the Groups of African, Asian, Eastern European, Latin American and Caribbean, and Western European and other States also addressed the meeting.

Seminars Eye Progress in Decolonization

"[There] cannot be anything more reprehensible in life than having someone else make your decisions for you."

These words of I. S. Mulitauaopele, High Talking Chief of American Samoa, sum up the spirit of two United Nations seminars on decolonization held in 1990 in Vanuatu and in Barbados.

The seminars were part of the activities organized by the United Nations General Assembly for the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. That landmark document gave impetus to the great independence movement that swept the world in the 1960s and 1970s, leading to the birth of some 80 new nations.

The Assembly in 1989 decided to hold two regional seminars on decolonization, in the Caribbean and in the Pacific, since most of the remaining 18 Non-Self-Governing Territories are located there.

The events were organized by the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization—the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

The seminars were held to review the specific problems of the Territories. To draw up strategies on how to assist the peoples of the Territories as they progress towards self-determination, special attention was given to the views of their representatives, and the Committee made exceptional efforts to secure their participation. The administering Powers also provided support, and the Vanuatu seminar saw the presence of the largest number of representatives from the Territories at a Special Committee seminar.

Decolonization of the Pacific...

The seminar for Asia/Pacific was held at Port Vila, Vanuatu, from 9 to 11 May 1990. It was attended by 61 par-

ticipants—representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories, administering Powers (New Zealand and Portugal), members of the Special Committee, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as eminent persons. The seminar was conducted by Tesfaye Tadesse, Chairman of the Special Committee and Ethiopia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Members of the Special Committee taking part in the event were Chile, Fiji, Indonesia, Norway, Tunisia, the United Republic of Tanzania and Yugoslavia. Five members of the South Pacific Forum—a political and economic organization of 15 countries and Territories of the region—also attended: Australia, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

UN Photo/Saw Lwin

Father Walter Lini, Prime Minister of the Republic of Vanuatu.

Father Walter Lini, Prime Minister of Vanuatu, addressed the opening meeting. "Many, if not most, of the world's remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories can be found here in the South Pacific," he said. "In a sense, we now have our own 'Namibias' and our own 'Palestines'—potentially explosive colonial situations that...cry out for international attention."

The Prime Minister proposed measures to speed up decolonization. "This decade should begin with a visit by the

Secretary-General of the United Nations, or a specially designated representative of the Secretary-General, to each of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories," he said.

"An urgent appeal should be issued at the highest levels," he continued, "urging those who are still administering Non-Self-Governing Territories to establish the necessary conditions, as soon as possible, to enable the peoples of those Territories to gain their political and economic independence prior to 31 December 1999."

Individual nations, Lini said, should be urged "to consider the adoption of legislation discouraging commercial enterprises from continuing or initiating activities that are prejudicial to the exercise of the right of self-determination and independence by the peoples of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories".

Countries could also be requested to adopt legislation promoting the human rights of the peoples of the Territories, and facilitating their recourse to judicial proceedings in order to gain economic and social restitution, Lini said.

In the view of Ambassador Tadesse, the administering Powers should assist the economic development of the Territories in close consultation with the local representatives. The Powers should also safeguard the permanent sovereignty of the peoples of the Territories over their natural resources, he said.

The participants heard representatives of several Non-Self-Governing Territories—American Samoa, Guam, New Caledonia and Tokelau.

New Caledonia's Rock Wamytan, of the Front de libération nationale kanak socialiste (FLNKS), expressed the hope that by 1998 the Kanak people would have all the necessary skills to exercise their right to self-determination. Yann Céléne Uregei, of the Front uni de libération kanak (FULK), felt that the 10-year period until self-determination stipulated by France was too long.

Leland Bettis, Executive Director of the Guam Commission on Self-determination, said that in 1987 Guamanian voters had approved a Commonwealth Act which, when approved by the United States Congress, would allow

Guam to be internally self-governing. The draft Act, which had been before that Congress for two and a half years, contained a mechanism by which Guam's indigenous inhabitants would exercise their right to self-determination in line with the 1960 General Assembly Declaration. Ron Rivera, Chairman of Guam's Organization of People for Indigenous Rights, said his organization supported the draft Act, which would provide for self-determination for his people.

Casimilo Perez, Official Secretary of the Office for Tokelau Affairs, said that the people of Tokelau asked for the opportunity to develop a form of Government, acceptable to both Tokelau and the United Nations, in their own time and at their own pace.

For the time being, they were happy to remain linked to New Zealand as a Non-Self-Governing Territory.

I. S. Mulitauaopele, High Talking Chief and Special Assistant to the Governor on Public Affairs, said that American Samoa was by every means self-governing. The entire Government and public service were made up almost exclusively of Samoans. All decisions were made by the American Samoans, who also owned 90 to 95 per cent of the land. It was the wish of his people to maintain their relationship with the United States, which, he said, was based on mutual respect and care.

The discussion that followed highlighted the main issues in the region. Participants held that the administering Powers had the responsibility to ensure that political, economic and social conditions were developed to the extent that the people of the Territory could make a free choice about self-determination, unimpeded by lack of political, economic or social self-sufficiency.

Programmes for economic and social advancement should be expanded as the Territories accede to independence, participants stated, thus enhancing the opportunity of the people to determine their future without the threat of economic reprisal. Adequate economic infrastructures should be created, and transport and communications should be upgraded, to overcome the adverse economic effects of remoteness and isolation.

Noting that most Territories heavily depend on food imports, speakers felt that programmes of agricultural advancement should have high priority, and that trade relations should be extended to more countries.

UNICEF/Carolyn Watson

A villager of the island of Tanna, south of the main island of Efate where the Vanuatu capital of Port Vila is located, stands beside yams stored near the village meeting house.

The tourist industry continued to be the main economic activity of some island Territories, participants noted. While tourism is a major source of revenue, they felt that it should be developed with extreme care, to ensure that scarce land was not alienated from the people. The development of tourism should be carefully monitored, to avoid cultural disruption and the marginalization of the local population.

On 11 May 1990, the participants unanimously adopted a report on the seminar. The Special Committee and the United Nations would carefully study the proposals made at the seminar, Ambassador Tadesse said, for completing the decolonization process by the end of the decade.

...and the Caribbean

The seminar for the Caribbean was held at Bridgetown, Barbados, from 19 to 21 June 1990. It was attended by

59 participants—representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories, United Nations bodies, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs, as well as eminent persons. No administering Power accepted the Committee's invitation to participate.

Conducted by Ambassador Tadesse, the meeting was attended by seven members of the Special Committee—Afghanistan, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Norway, and Trinidad and Tobago. Other States which attended the seminar included Argentina and Barbados.

L. Erskine Sandiford, Prime Minister of Barbados, spoke at the opening session. "Barbados believes that all peoples should determine freely their present and future status," he said, "whether they wish to retain their status with the

Allan Montaine

The Independence Arch, in Bridgetown, was erected to commemorate Barbados' twenty-first anniversary of its independence, achieved in 1966.

colonial or administering Power in the foreseeable future, or whether they wish to retain that status in the short- or medium-term until they can adjust their economic, social or political circumstances.

"This seminar is for us much more than a commemoration," he said. "This seminar offers an opportunity

for a serious exchange of ideas and reflections on the future. Hopefully, it will result in...a call for international co-operation to make the last decade of the twentieth century truly the world's last decade of colonialism.

"The highest form of political, economic, social and cultural independence in each individual Caribbean Territory will come through regional integration and self-reliance," he added. "For political freedom to be real, it must rest on independent economic foundations."

Tadesse recalled that the General Assembly had recognized the need for flexibility in the process of self-determination: on 15 December 1960 it had indicated that a Territory could be said to have reached self-government by emergence as a sovereign independent State, by free association with an independent State, or by integration with an independent State.

This offered clear options to the Territories, Tadesse said, and refuted misleading views that the Special Committee had nothing but independence to offer. In fact some Territories had achieved independence, and others self-government in the form of integration or free association with another State.

The seminar heard representatives of Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, the Turks and Caicos Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands.

Territories whose economy was based on a single industry should make serious attempts at diversification, said Phyllis Fleming-Banks, of the National Council of Women of Anguilla. Fishing and agriculture should be aggressively developed. Foreign investment and land alienation should be monitored through relevant laws. With education and the co-operation of the international community, self-determination could become a reality, she said.

C. Walton Brown, Jr., Chairman of the Committee for the Independence of Bermuda, stated that the Territory had one of the world's highest per capita incomes, negligible unemployment, a strong international financial base and political stability. Those conditions had primed Bermuda for independence, he said. But racial unease and the lack of

political leadership would result in continued British colonial rule for some time. If Bermuda was to gain international respect and control over its own destiny, he observed, it would eventually have to sever the colonial link.

"The British Virgin Islands will not be bullied, provoked, coerced or sweet-mouthed into independence," stated Ralph T. O'Neal, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Natural Resources and Labour of that Territory. He stressed that the majority of the population did not want independence. The Special Committee must respect the wishes of the majority, he said, and find a way to deal with the small States which do not wish to opt for independence.

John Osborne, Chief Minister and Minister for Finance of Montserrat, said that it would be a mistake to demand independence under the existing economic conditions in Montserrat. While he believed in self-determination, the people were hindered from exercising that right because of the economic situation. Without a sound infrastructure, it would be impossible to convince people to accept independence.

Not everyone in Montserrat wanted independence, he said. Many feared that the economy would falter. Although most people wished to retain a special relationship with the United Kingdom, Montserrat should be in a position, in the not too distant future, to express its right to self-determination and join the international community of nations, he said.

Alden Durham, Leader of the Opposition in the Turks and Caicos Islands, considered that the 1988 Constitution was "thrust upon us by the British". It had vested supreme power in the colonial Governor, and had legislated a voting system giving more weight to some votes than to others.

There was no programme for the independence of the Territory, he said. His party viewed independence as inevitable, and felt that the Territory should not rely on the British for ever. It was therefore committed to developing a sound economic base and a cadre of trained personnel, so that independence could be sustained.

Carlyle Corbin, Representative for External Affairs of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands, said that the constitutional mechanisms governing the relationship of the Territory with its administering Power did not emanate from international law, but from United States domestic law. The current political relationship and any change in status rested with the United States Congress. This had led to unilateral application of certain laws by the United States, without consulting the Territory's Government.

That process was supported by the courts of the United States, which tended to interpret the relationship as if the Territory had chosen the political status of integration. But without a referendum on that status, such a position was inconsistent with international law, he said.

Participants discussed the main issues facing the region. With the independence of Namibia in April 1990, the decolonization process had entered a new phase, they said, and innovative approaches were needed to complete decolonization. Participants deemed it essential to call on the United Nations to observe or supervise the final act of self-determination in the Territories.

Some Territories have a low level of economic development owing to their limited natural resources, participants noted. Until there was greater self-reliance, the economies of the Territories would remain dependent, and be controlled by the administering Powers and other interests. The administering Powers should thus support economic growth and diversification.

Some speakers urged the administering Powers to discourage any systematic influx of immigrants and settlers, to avoid disruption of the demographic composition of the Territories.

Others expressed concern over military installations and activities in the Caribbean Territories, pointing out security risks and other adverse consequences.

Many participants stressed the need to protect the environment and prevent the disposal of toxic wastes. They recalled the responsibility of the administering Powers to

ensure that activities within their jurisdiction do not cause damage to the environment.

Participants stressed the vulnerability of the Caribbean Territories to drug trafficking and money-laundering, and called on the international community to co-operate with the territorial Governments in fighting the drug problem.

On 21 June 1990, the participants adopted by acclamation the report of the seminar. The Special Committee would study the report carefully, Tadesse said, in particular the need for further dissemination of information on decolonization.

* * *

On 20 August 1990, the Special Committee unanimously adopted the reports of the seminars. It asked the Secretariat to prepare for its 1991 session a working paper on how to translate into action the proposals put forward at the seminars, taking particular account of the views of the representatives of the Territories.

Palau—In Search of Its Destiny

In February 1990, the voters of Palau, an island group in the Pacific Ocean with a population of about 13,770, once again set off for polling stations to decide their future political status. Palau, for several years now, has been in the process of deciding on a means of self-determination—a process that has brought its people to the verge of entering into a Compact of Free Association with the United States. But after several plebiscites on the Compact, the Palauans still have not adopted it.

The Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, with a total population estimated at 168,431 in 1986, is made up of some 2,000 islands scattered over 7.8 million square kilometres of the western Pacific, north of the Equator. Palau, the least populated of the Pacific Islands that were placed under United States administration by the terms of a Trusteeship Agreement between the United Nations and the United States concluded in 1947, is the only one that has not yet finalized the terms under which its Compact with the United States will go into effect. It is one of four constitutional Governments in the Trust Territory; the others are the Federated States of Micronesia (comprising the four states of Kosrae, Pohnpei, Truk and Yap), the Marshall Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Northern Marianas opted for Commonwealth status in 1975. In 1983, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands approved Compacts of Free Association with the United States. The Congress of the United States also approved them, with some amendments, in 1985 and they were signed by the President of the United States in January 1986.

In May 1986, the Trusteeship Council noted in its resolution 2183 (LIII) that the peoples of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and Palau had freely exercised their right to self-determination in plebiscites observed by United Nations

visiting missions and had chosen free association with the United States in the case of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and Palau and Commonwealth status in the case of the Northern Mariana Islands.

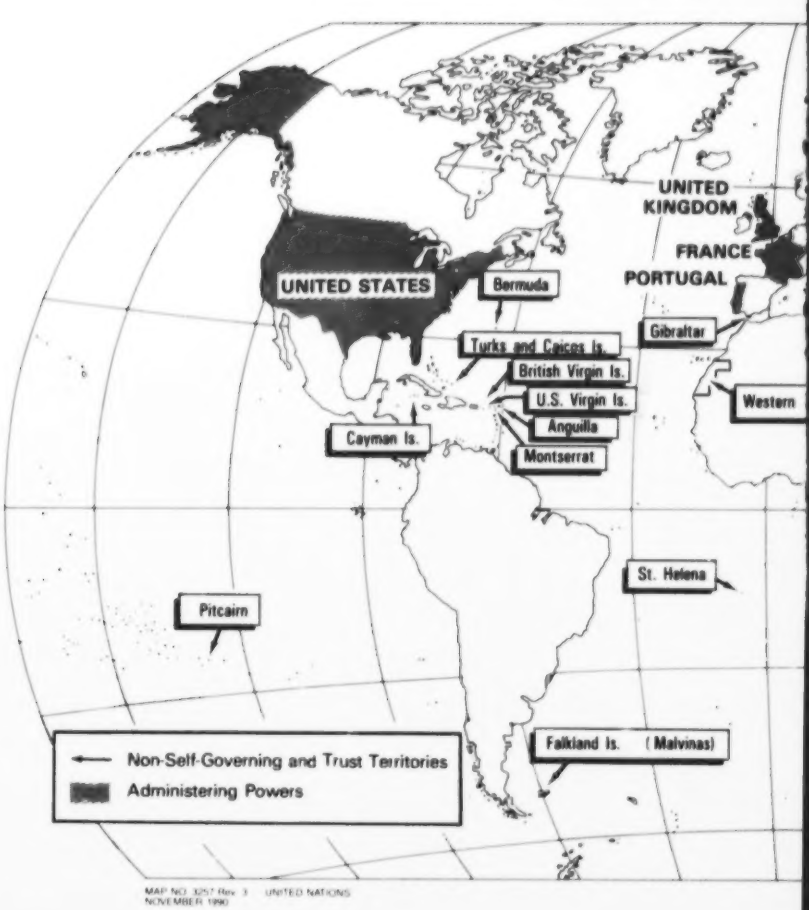
The Council further requested the United States, in consultation with the four entities, to agree on a date not later than 30 September 1986 for the full entry into force of the Compacts and Commonwealth Covenant, and considered that the United States had satisfactorily discharged its obligations under the terms of the Trusteeship Agreement and that it was appropriate for that Agreement to be terminated with effect from the above date.

UN Photo/Y Nagata

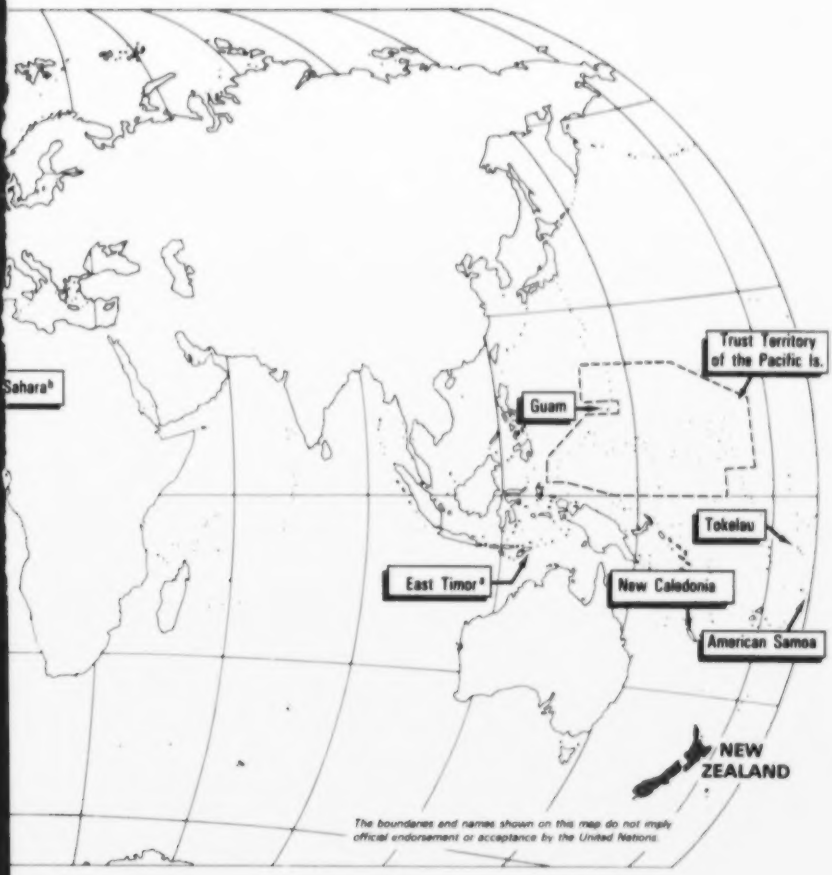
A farmers' produce market on Koror Island, Palau.

It only remained for Palau to take the necessary measures to approve the new political status. In December 1989, the United States President signed into law a Congressional resolution authorizing the entry into force of the Compact of Free Association between the United States and Palau, subject to approval by the Palauan people.

Seven plebiscites have been held in Palau on the Compact of Free Association which were observed by United Nations visiting missions sent by the Trusteeship Council.



[a] On 6 April 1979, and in subsequent communications, Portuga
prevented it from assuming its responsibilities for the administration of the Territ
[b] By resolution 45/21 of 20 November 1990, the General Assemb
tion, which remained to be completed by the people of Western Sahara. It expre
the conflict could contribute to the completion of the joint good offices process a
by the current Chairman of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government o


Trust Territory of the Pacific Is.
Guam
Tokelau
East Timor[a]
New Caledonia
American Samoa
NEW ZEALAND
The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

informed the Secretary-General that conditions prevailing in East Timor had
ry.
reaffirmed that the question of Western Sahara was a question of decoloniza-
ssed its conviction that the continuation of direct dialogue between the parties to
ned at promoting a just and definitive solution of the question of Western Sahara
the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations Secretary-General.

In all referenda, Palauans have voted in favour of the Compact by margins ranging from 60 to 73 per cent of the electorate. However, the Compact was not implemented because it failed to obtain the required majority under the Palau Constitution. The Constitution requires the Compact to be approved by at least 75 per cent of the voters since it contains defence-related provisions, by which the United States could operate nuclear-propelled or -capable vessels and aircraft within Palau's jurisdiction.

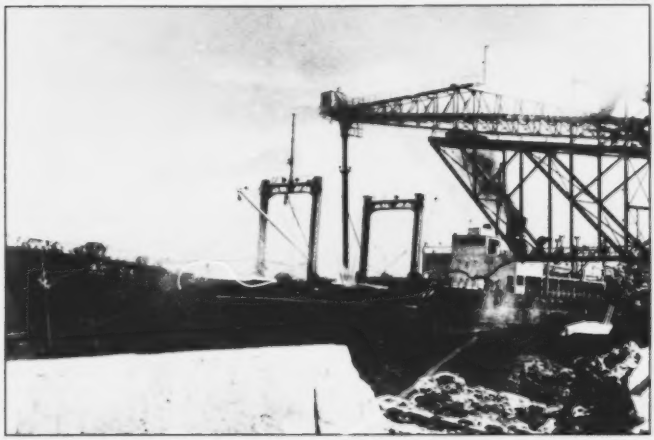
The Palau National Congress called its most recent plebiscite on the Compact on 6 February 1990. To observe the voting process, a United Nations visiting mission composed of representatives of five Member States—China, Fiji, France, Papua New Guinea and the United Kingdom—was in Palau from 31 January to 10 February 1990. Its main tasks were to make sure that the Palauan people understood what the plebiscite was about, to satisfy itself that all eligible voters had the opportunity to vote, by secret ballot, and to examine the polling arrangements, the counting of votes and the declaration of results to see whether all the arrangements were fair and in conformity with the election laws.

The mission carried out an extensive programme of interviews and meetings throughout the islands. It met with the President of Palau, Ngiratkel Etpison, and with the head of the Political Education Committee, members of the *Olbiil Era Kelulau* (Palau National Congress), members of the Palauan Election Commission, traditional leaders and, in public meetings, the voters. Although the mission encountered little evidence of active campaigning, some concerns were expressed to its members about Palau's economic and social development, about the continuance of United States assistance to Palau, and regarding Palau's future should the Compact not be approved. Many Palauans asked about the future involvement of the United Nations, especially the Trusteeship Council, if the Compact did not obtain the required majority.

In the February plebiscite, of a total of 7,621 valid votes cast, 4,633, or 60.8 per cent, were in favour of the Compact; 2,988, or 39.2 per cent, were against it. The visit-

ing mission reported that the results of the plebiscite had reflected the freely expressed wishes of the people of Palau and that the people had an adequate understanding of the underlying issues and the implications of the Compact on their future. There was no evidence of political tension or attempts at coercion or intimidation, it said.

UN Photo



A Japanese steamer loads phosphate at Angaur, in Palau.

The mission noted, however, that the debate over the Compact had become, to some extent, interwoven with domestic political rivalries and ambitions in Palau. Many voters had expressed disaffection with the political process as a result. The Director of Palau's Bureau of Foreign Affairs, Victorio Uherbelau, stated that Palauans had not rejected the Compact as a political status option. A majority favoured the continuation of a close relationship with the United States. Palauans' principal concerns were the infrastructural inadequacies in the Territory, basic for its economic well-being and self-sufficiency.

On the basis of the reports of the visiting mission and the Administering Authority, the Trusteeship Council noted in June 1990 that, in the February plebiscite, the Compact of Free Association had not obtained the 75 per cent

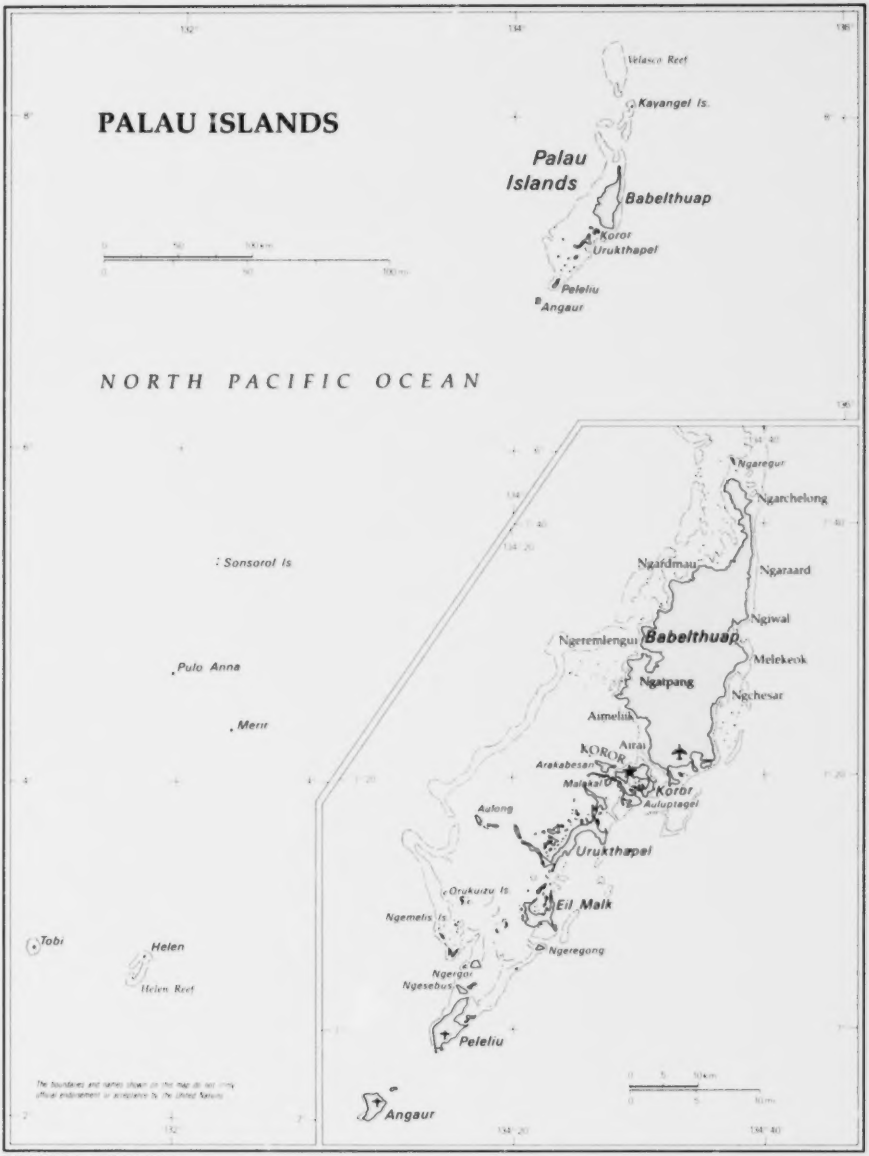
majority necessary for ratification. The Government of Palau was, therefore, reviewing options to resolve its current status.

According to the present arrangements, legislative power in Palau is vested in the *Olbiil Era Kelulau*, consisting of a House of Delegates and a Senate, whose members serve four-year terms. Executive power is vested in a President, who is elected for a four-year term. A Council of Chiefs advises the President on matters concerning traditional laws and customs. Palau is composed of 16 states, which were formerly clusters of loosely linked hamlets. Judicial power in Palau is vested in a Supreme Court, a National Court and ny ower courts of limited jurisdiction established by law.

UN Photo Y Nagata

A bonito catch is unloaded at a Koror Island wharf in Palau.

At a time when the United Nations is commemorating the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the 1960 Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the Pacific Islands remain the last Trust Territory of 11 such Territories of the International Trusteeship System set up under Chapter XII of the United Nations Charter. It is, moreover, the only strategic Trust Territory under Article 83 of the Charter, falling under the jurisdiction of the Security Council. The Trusteeship Council performs, on behalf of the Security Council, the func-



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tions of the United Nations under the Trusteeship System relating to political, economic, social and educational matters. The Trusteeship Agreement may only be terminated by a decision of the Security Council. The Trusteeship Council in June 1990 noted with satisfaction assurances given by the United States that it would continue to fulfil its responsibilities under the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement. On 22 December 1990, the Security Council, expressing the hope that the people of Palau would be able in due course to complete the process of freely exercising their right to self-determination, determined, in the light of the entry into force of the new status agreements for the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands, that the objectives of the Trusteeship Agreement had been fully attained, and that the applicability of that Agreement had terminated with respect to those entities.

Decolonization into the 1990s

Ambassador Tasfaye Tadesse, Chairman of the Special Committee on Decolonization and Ethiopia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, answered questions on where the international community stands on decolonization.

How many Territories remain under the Committee's consideration?

The list of Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories drawn up in 1962, when the Special Committee started its work, comprised 64 Territories to which resolution 1514(XV)—the Declaration on decolonization—applied. Since then, that number has diminished steadily as more dependent Territories acceded to independence. We note with satisfaction that today only 18 such Territories, most of them small island Territories spread across the Caribbean and the Pacific, remain on the list. These Territories are Anguilla, American Samoa, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, East Timor, the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

UN Photo

Ambassador Tesfaye Tadesse, of Ethiopia, Chairman of the Special Committee on Decolonization.

Gibraltar, Guam, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Micronesia), the Turks and Caicos Islands, the United States Virgin Islands and Western Sahara.

Do you expect to add any other Territories to the list?

Only the General Assembly is empowered to add or subtract a Territory from the list. The Special Committee's mandate is to examine the application of the Declaration contained in Assembly resolution 1514(XV) and to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress and extent of its implementation.

How effective has the Committee been?

Judging by the opinions widely expressed, both orally and in written form, the United Nations has been extremely successful in the field of decolonization. In fact, one could say that it truly figures as one of the United Nations' greatest successes. The Special Committee, by virtue of its mandate, is the General Assembly's body which, at the grass-roots level, serves as a catalyst for the implementation of the Assembly resolution on the matter. I would venture to say that over the past 29 years, the Committee has brought a more than modest contribution to the Organization's success in promoting the exercise by peoples of colonial Territories of their fundamental right to self-determination and independence.

What are the next priorities, since Namibia's independence?

The United Nations' deep involvement in the process of the independence of Namibia may, in the past, have overshadowed the no less active role the Organization has played, and continues to play, in decolonizing the other Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories. As I indicated before, most of them are small Territories in the Caribbean and the Pacific.

Now that Namibia has at last joined the community of independent nations, our efforts should concentrate on how best to help the remaining Territories exercise their

right to self-determination and independence. First and foremost, Member States should reiterate their support for the principles embodied in the Charter and the Declaration on decolonization, bearing in mind that such factors as a Territory's size, number of inhabitants or limited resources should not prevent its people from exercising their inalienable right to self-determination.

To this end, we must continue to listen attentively to the wishes of the peoples of the Territories and study their concerns, as each Territory has its own characteristics and particular concerns.

The two regional seminars that the Committee held in the Pacific and the Caribbean regions this year *[described in a preceding article]*, in observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration, were very helpful in that respect. They provided the Committee with the opportunity to hear, at first hand, the wishes of the populations of a number of Territories in those regions from their duly mandated representatives at those seminars. Those views, which were amply reflected in the seminar reports, clearly show how conditions may differ from one Territory to another.

The Committee will take due account of these realities in its future activities in order to meet effectively the expectations of the people concerned and to enhance the process of self-determination.

What Territories are expected to be the most difficult to decolonize?

It appears that nowadays nobody questions the right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination. That right, which derives from one of the fundamental principles of the Charter, is generally recognized and accepted. Wherever such a right is respected, the task of the Committee is greatly facilitated.

Most of the remaining colonial Territories, as I stated before, are small islands facing specific challenges owing to their size, geographical location and, in many cases, scarcity of resources. At the regional seminars in the Pacific and the Caribbean, some of their leaders gave priority to meeting those challenges in order to best prepare them to

exercise fully their right to self-determination. In that context, they emphasized the responsibility of the administering Powers concerned and called on the international community to assist them in improving the economic and social conditions in the Territories.

It is therefore essential that, while the decolonization effort must continue to be guided by a full commitment to the principles contained in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples—as well as Assembly resolution 1541(XV) which sets out the options available in that regard—the specific conditions and special needs of the dependent Territories must also be taken into account for the speedy fulfilment of the aspiration of the peoples freely to determine their future.

How co-operative are the administering Powers, and is there any chance of getting them to co-operate more?

To fulfil its mandate under optimum conditions, the Committee requires the full co-operation of the administering Powers. Such co-operation can take many forms. There are three aspects of it, however, which the Committee considers essential: the provision of timely and up-to-date information on the Territories, inviting visiting missions to those Territories, and the participation of the administering Powers in the Special Committee's work.

As regards the first aspect, although most of the administering Powers, under their Charter obligations, continue to submit information to the Secretary-General on the Territories under their administration, there it still room for improvement in the receipt of up-to-date and detailed information on the Territories concerned.

Secondly, in past years administering States invited the United Nations to send visiting missions to the Territories. Those missions had provided the Committee with an opportunity to meet with the peoples of the Territories and to learn about political, economic and social conditions at first-hand. The periodicity of such missions also enabled the Committee to assess developments in those fields. The information thus gathered was very helpful to the

Committee in preparing its recommendations. In recent years, however, invitations from administering Powers have not been forthcoming. This, of course, has deprived the Committee of one of its best means of accurately assessing developments and prevailing conditions in the Territories.

With respect to the participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Committee, we note with regret that some of them do not participate in its meetings or have ceased to do so.

In view of the importance we attach to the co-operation of those Powers, we will continue to do our utmost to persuade them that it is in the interests of all parties concerned that they join us in our efforts in the decolonization process. In this connection, we were gratified to note the assistance the administering Powers provided to the Committee in facilitating the participation of representatives of the Territories under their administrations in the regional seminars in the Pacific and the Caribbean organized earlier this year. We hope that as the atmosphere in international relations continues to improve, the day will soon come when the Committee and all the administering Powers will work side by side to attain the objectives of the Declaration and enable the world to be free from all vestiges of colonialism by the end of the decade, as envisaged by the international community.

What are the most urgent needs of the Territories?

In the majority of the remaining Territories, which continue to face the challenges arising from remoteness, limited natural resources, scarcity of arable land and limited local markets, a great deal remains to be accomplished. Moreover, a number of those Territories, because of their geographical location, are exposed to the devastating effects of frequent hurricanes.

The international community must continue to examine the economic and social conditions in the small island Territories and formulate concrete suggestions that may help to bring about solutions to their specific problems.

We must continue to give particular attention to the concerns of their peoples, such as:

- the need for programmes to guide and assist economic development in the Territories through greater self-reliance,
- the need for adequate agricultural programmes aimed at reducing the heavy dependency on food imports,
- the creation of adequate economic infrastructures and upgrading of transport and communications, to overcome the adverse economic effects of remoteness and isolation,
- the need for an increased transfer of resources to the Territories, to create new economic activities and general employment, and
- the development of their tourist industry without causing cultural disruption or marginalization of the local population.

What activities of foreign economic and other interests are impeding decolonization?

Given the lack of economic self-sufficiency of the Territories, the role of foreign economic interests in them has become a matter of serious concern. The inflow of appropriate foreign investment remains a major factor of economic growth and social advancement. However, it is essential to ensure that such investments benefit the populations of the Territories by improving their standard of living and enhancing economic self-sufficiency. Therefore, emphasis should be placed on activities that promote the welfare of the people and contribute to the development of the Territories.

Having said that, it should be stressed that the Committee has in its resolutions noted the danger of activities of foreign economic interests that could pose an obstacle to decolonization. Some activities could result in plundering natural resources, damaging the environment, introducing social imbalances, or involving the Territories in illicit activities, such as money laundering, funds smuggling and drug trafficking. The Committee continues to denounce those

types of activities. It is essential to ensure that the Territories are protected from such negative activities.

What is the view of the Special Committee on military activities in the Territories by administering Powers?

The Special Committee, in its decisions with respect to military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration, reaffirms its conviction that the presence of military bases and installations in the Territories could constitute a major obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration. The Committee considers it to be the responsibility of the administering Powers to ensure that the existence of such bases and installations do not hinder the populations of the Territories from exercising their right to self-determination and independence in conformity with the Charter and the Declaration. The Committee urges the administering Powers to continue to take all necessary measures not to involve the Territories in any offensive acts or interference against other States and to comply fully with Charter principles, the Declaration and United Nations decisions relating to this question. The Committee calls upon the administering Powers to terminate such activities and dismantle such bases, and deprecates the continued alienation of land in colonial Territories for military installations.

What Territories are affected by drug trafficking or money laundering? What is being done?

Because of their small size, geographical location and insufficient means to patrol their coastlines and supervise their internal financial markets, some of the Territories are vulnerable to drug trafficking and related activities.

Although this phenomenon has been observed mainly in the Caribbean Territories, no Territory is absolutely and permanently immune from the pernicious effects of drug trafficking or money laundering.

In its annual consideration of particular Territories, the Special Committee has consistently called upon the administering Powers to take all necessary measures, in co-

operation with the territorial Governments, to counter problems related to drug trafficking.

What Territories are experiencing environmental damage? What is being done?

All of the remaining small Territories, in addition to being vulnerable to natural disasters—as demonstrated by the recent passage of hurricanes Hugo in the Caribbean and Ofa in the Pacific, which caused vast environmental damage to the islands—are also exposed to the risks of being used for toxic waste dumping endangering their ecologies.

The Special Committee has consistently called for assistance to the Territories to mitigate the effects of natural disasters and to improve their disaster prevention and preparedness. It has also consistently drawn the attention of the administering Powers to the possible hazards of toxic waste dumping. It continues to monitor the situation in each Territory closely and to report to the General Assembly.

What are the problems relating to foreign exploitation of natural resources?

In assessing the problems of foreign exploitation of the Territories' natural resources, we must reaffirm that the people of the Territories are the rightful owners of their natural resources, including marine resources, and that the international community must remain vigilant to see that these resources are developed in ways that help improve living standards, promote economic self-reliance and preserve the values, traditions and integrity of their societies. The problems related to foreign exploitation of natural resources must be viewed in the context of the difficult problems and unique handicaps faced by the Territories. As I have already said, those problems include remoteness, vulnerability to natural disasters, constraints in transport and communications, great distances from market centres, heavy dependence on the export of few commodities and heavy dependence on imports.

On the one hand, foreign economic activities in the Territories have resulted in the development of export-related activities in sectors such as fisheries, agriculture, manufacturing, mining and particularly tourism in several

Caribbean and other Territories. On the other hand, of urgent global concern, particularly in the Pacific, has been the impact of large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing and its depletion of the living marine resources.

In some instances, foreign economic activities have made insufficient efforts to stimulate local employment and to transfer skills. There has been little training of indigenous personnel, specially in technical, engineering, marketing and supervisory activities. Development in this area also calls for increased efforts by the administering Powers to expand technical and post-secondary education.

The tourist industry continues to be the main economic activity of some island Territories, given their attractive climate and environment. Other Territories are likely to engage in this activity in the future. While recognizing that tourism could be a major source of revenue for the Territories, given their limited natural resources, tourism development should be undertaken only with extreme care to ensure that the scarce land resources are not alienated from the people of the Territory. It should be carefully monitored to avoid cultural disruption and ensure that the local population is not marginalized.

When a Territory has become independent, what is done for its continued development?

Once a Territory becomes independent, its people must assume the exigencies of a new government, including all responsibilities for future development. Therefore, after independence many former Territories often require assistance from the international community owing to the unique problems they face, which I have already mentioned.

The international community has a network of agencies to assist in economic and social development, as can be seen most recently in the case of Namibia. The international network consists of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, as well as regional organizations.

Do you consider the target of the Decolonization Decade realistic?

Ten years to settle the question of the remaining Territories seems fairly reasonable. It does imply, however,

that all parties concerned, and the international community as a whole, should redouble their efforts to assist the peoples of those Territories in the vital areas I indicated earlier, so they can speedily prepare themselves to freely exercise their right to self-determination and independence and assume the responsibility of nationhood.

What role are NGO's playing in decolonization?

The role played by the non-governmental organizations in the decolonization process since the establishment of the United Nations is well known and greatly appreciated by the international community. Their actions at the grass-roots level, based on the realities of the Territories, have been essential in providing urgently needed assistance and in mobilizing world public opinion in favour of the principle of self-determination as enshrined in the Charter. Their most recent achievement was their invaluable contribution to the long process that led to the independence of Namibia.

The remoteness and isolation of most of the remaining Territories make the contributions of those organizations even more important. The testimony of NGOs as petitioners at our sessions, which is a clear indication of their familiarity with the issues, has always been a major source of information inasmuch as the Committee has had limited opportunities to visit the Territories.

How can the United Nations help?

As I stated earlier, if there is a field of activity where the success of the United Nations remains undisputed, decolonization is that field. I have no doubt that the Organization will continue to be involved in decolonization activities until such time as the last colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territory has exercised its right to self-determination and independence. As in the past, it will continue to serve as a catalyst for the promotion of the political, economic and social advancement of the peoples of the remaining Territories so as to enable their inhabitants to choose freely their future status before the year 2000, the target date set by the General Assembly.

Appendix I

Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

General Assembly resolution 1514(XV) of 14 December 1960

The General Assembly,

Mindful of the determination proclaimed by the peoples of the world in the Charter of the United Nations to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Conscious of the need for the creation of conditions of stability and well-being and peaceful and friendly relations based on respect for the principles of equal rights and self-determination of all peoples, and of universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Recognizing the passionate yearning for freedom in all dependent peoples and the decisive role of such peoples in the attainment of their independence,

Aware of the increasing conflicts resulting from the denial of or impediments in the way of the freedom of such peoples, which constitute a serious threat to world peace,

Considering the important role of the United Nations in assisting the movement for independence in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Recognizing that the peoples of the world ardently desire the end of colonialism in all its manifestations,

Convinced that the continued existence of colonialism prevents the development of international economic co-operation, impedes the social, cultural and economic development of dependent peoples and militates against the United Nations ideal of universal peace,

Affirming that peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic co-operation, based upon the principle of mutual benefit, and international law,

Believing that the process of liberation is irresistible and irreversible and that, in order to avoid serious crises, an end must be put to colonialism and all practices of segregation and discrimination associated therewith,

Welcoming the emergence in recent years of a large number of dependent Territories into freedom and independence, and recognizing the increasingly powerful trends towards freedom in such Territories which have not yet attained independence,

Convinced that all peoples have an inalienable right to complete freedom, the exercise of their sovereignty and the integrity of their national territory,

Solemnly proclaims the necessity of bringing to a speedy and unconditional end colonialism in all its forms and manifestations;

And to this end

Declares that:

1. The subjection of peoples to alien subjugation, domination and exploitation constitutes a denial of fundamental human rights, is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and is an impediment to the promotion of world peace and co-operation.
2. All peoples have the right to self-determination; by virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.
3. Inadequacy of political, economic, social or educational preparedness should never serve as a pretext for delaying independence.
4. All armed action or repressive measures of all kinds directed against dependent peoples shall cease in order to enable them to exercise peacefully and freely their right to complete independence, and the integrity of their national territory shall be respected.
5. Immediate steps shall be taken, in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories or all other Territories which have not yet attained independence, to transfer all powers to the peoples of those Territories, without any conditions or reservations, in accordance with their freely expressed will and desire, without any distinction as to race, creed or colour, in order to enable them to enjoy complete independence and freedom.
6. Any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a country is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.
7. All States shall observe faithfully and strictly the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the present Declaration on the basis of equality, non-interference in the internal affairs of all States, and respect for the sovereign rights of all peoples and their territorial integrity.

Appendix II

Thirtieth Anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

General Assembly resolution 45/33 of 20 November 1990

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in its resolution 1514(XV) of 14 December 1960,

Recalling also its resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988, entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism",

Having commemorated in plenary meeting, in the year of the forty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration,

Recalling the provisions of the Charter of the United Nation-Nations, in which the peoples of the world proclaimed their determination to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Recalling also the relevant provisions of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling further its resolutions 2621(XXV) of 12 October 1970, containing the programme of action for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and 35/118 of 11 December 1980, the annex to which contains the Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of the Declaration, as well as its resolution 40/56 of 2 December 1985,

Considering that the process of national liberation is irresistible and irreversible, and recalling that the Declaration solemnly proclaimed the necessity speedily and unconditionally to put an end to colonialism in all its forms and manifestations,

Recognizing the significant and commendable role played by the United Nations, since its very inception, in the field of decolonization and noting the emergence, during this period, of more than one hundred States into sovereign existence, in particular noting with satisfaction the attainment of independence by Namibia following the holding of free and fair elections under the supervision and control of the United Nations, and the subsequent admission of independent Namibia as a Member of the United Nations on 23 April 1990,

Noting with satisfaction, in particular, that during the past thirty years a large number of former colonial Territories have achieved independence, mainly through the courageous liberation struggle carried out by the peoples of those countries, led by their national liberation movements, and that many former Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories have exercised their right to self-determination and independence in accordance with the Declaration,

Noting also with satisfaction the important contribution made by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in furthering the aims and objectives of the Declaration with a view to the liberation of peoples from colonial rule,

Noting further with satisfaction the active and important role being played by former colonial Territories, as States Members of the United Nations and members of the other organizations of the United Nations system, in the realization of the purposes and principles of the Charter, the preservation of international peace and security, decolonization and the promotion of human progress, as well as the profound impact thereof on contemporary international relations,

Conscious of the fact that the Declaration has played an important role in assisting the peoples under colonial rule and will continue to serve as an inspiration in their efforts to achieve self-determination and independence in accordance with the Charter and in mobilizing world public opinion for the complete elimination of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations,

Noting with satisfaction the work accomplished by the two regional seminars held by the Special Committee in Vanuatu and Barbados on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration,

Deeply concerned at the fact that, thirty years after the adoption of the Declaration, colonialism in the world has not yet been totally eradicated,

Reaffirming that all peoples have the right to self-determination and independence and that the subjection of peoples to colonial domination constitutes a denial of fundamental human rights and is a serious impediment to the maintenance of international peace and security and the development of peaceful relations among nations,

Increasingly aware of the importance of economic, social and cultural development and self-reliance of colonial countries and peoples for the attainment and consolidation of genuine independence,

Convinced that the total eradication of racial discrimination, *apartheid* and violations of the basic human rights of the peoples in the remaining colonial Territories will be achieved peacefully and most expeditiously by the faithful and complete implementation of the Declaration,

Noting that the large majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are small island Territories,

Determined to take effective measures leading to the complete and unconditional elimination of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations without further delay,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of all peoples under colonial rule to self-determination and independence in accordance with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514(XV);

2. *Declares* that the continuation of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations, including racism and *apartheid*, is incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration and the principles of international law;

3. *Expresses its conviction* that the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration should provide an opportunity for Member States to rededicate themselves to the principles and objectives enunciated in that document and for concerted efforts to be made to remove the last vestiges of colonialism in all regions of the world;

4. *Strongly condemns* South Africa's aggressive activities and acts of destabilization against neighbouring independent African States and its policies of *apartheid*, as well as its acquisition of nuclear-weapon capability, the use of which would heighten tension and increase the threat to regional as well as international peace and security;

5. *Calls upon* Member States, in particular colonial Powers, to take effective steps with a view to the complete, unconditional and speedy eradication of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations and to the faithful and strict observance of the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and those of the Security Council;

6. *Urges* Member States to do their utmost to promote, in the United Nations and the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Naions system, effective measures for the full and speedy implementation of the Declaration in all colonial Territories to which the Declaration applies;

7. *Calls upon* Member States to render, as a matter of urgency, all moral and material assistance to the peoples under colonial rule in their struggle to exercise their right to self-determination and independence, in accordance with the Charter and the Declaration;

8. *Urges* the administering Powers and other Member States to ensure that the activities of foreign economic and other interests in colonial Territories do not run counter to the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories and do not impede the implementation of the Declaration;

9. *Urges* Member States to discontinue all economic, financial, trade and other relations with the racist minority régime of South Africa that run counter to the Declaration on *Apartheid* and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa and to refrain from entering into any relations which may lend legitimacy or support to its policies of *apartheid*;

10. *Requests* Member States, as well as the organizations of the United Nations system, to ensure that the permanent sovereignty of the colonial Territories over their natural resources is fully respected and safeguarded;

11. *Reiterates* the view that such factors as territorial size, geographical location, size of population and limited natural resources should in no way delay the speedy exercise by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of their inalienable right to self-determination and independence in conformity with the Declaration contained in General Assembly resolution 1514(XV), which fully applies to the dependent Territories;

12. *Reaffirms* that all administering Powers are obliged, under the Charter and in accordance with the Declaration, to create economic, social and other conditions in the Territories under their administration which will enable those Territories to achieve genuine independence and economic self-reliance;

13. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to adopt the necessary measures to discourage or prevent any systematic influx of immigrants and settlers into the Territories under their administration which might disrupt the demographic composition of those Territories and prevent the genuine exercise of the right of self-determination and independence by their peoples, and to avoid any forced displacement, complete or partial, of the population of colonial Territories;

14. *Further requests* the administering Powers to preserve the cultural identity, as well as the national unity, of the Territories under their administration and to encourage the full development of the indigenous culture, with a view to facilitating the unfettered exercise of the right to self-determination and independence by the peoples of those Territories;

15. *Reaffirms its strong conviction* that the presence of all kinds of military bases and installations in colonial Territories could constitute a major obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration and that it is the responsibility of the administering Powers concerned to ensure that the existence of such bases and installations does not hinder the peoples of the Territories from exercising their right to self-determination and independence in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter and the Declaration;

16. *Calls upon* the administering Powers concerned to continue to take all necessary measures not to involve those Territories in any offensive acts or interference against other States and to comply fully with the purposes and principles of the Charter, the Declaration and the resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in the Territories under their administration;

17. *Requests* Member States, in particular the administering Powers, to adopt appropriate measures to prevent the recruitment, financing, training and transit of mercenaries in their Territories for use against the national liberation movements struggling for freedom and independence from the yoke of colonialism, racism and *apartheid;*

18. *Considers* it incumbent upon the United Nations to continue to play an active role in the process of decolonization and to intensify its efforts for the widest possible dissemination of information on decolonization, with a view to the further mobilization of international public opinion in support of complete decolonization;

19. *Urges* Member States to ensure the full and speedy implementation of the Declaration contained in General Assembly resolution 1514(XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

20. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to render, or continue to render, within their respective spheres of competence, all possible moral and material assistance to the peoples of the colonial Territories and to their national

liberation movements, to take measures to withhold from the *apartheid* régime of South Africa any form of collaboration or assistance in the financial, economic and technical fields and to discontinue all support to that régime until *apartheid* has been eradicated and a non-racial, united and democratic State based on the will of all South African people has been established in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, including the Declaration on *Apartheid* and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, and those of the Security Council;

21. *Invites* non-governmental organizations having a special interest in the field of decolonization to intensify their activities in co-operation with the United Nations;

22. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the full compliance of all States with General Assembly resolution 1514(XV) and other relevant resolutions on the question of decolonization, to seek the most suitable ways for the speedy and total application of the Declaration to all Territories to which it applies and to propose to the General Assembly specific measures for the complete implementation of the Declaration in the remaining colonial Territories;

23. *Invites* all States to co-operate fully with the Special Committee in the complete fulfilment of its mandate.

Appendix III

Territories to which the Declaration on Decolonization Continues to Apply

(as at 31 December 1990)

Territory	*Administering Authority*
Africa:	
Western Sahara	Spain[1]
Asia and the Pacific:	
American Samoa	United States
East Timor	Portugal[2]
Guam	United States
New Caledonia	France
Pitcairn	United Kingdom
Tokelau	New Zealand
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands	United States
Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean and Mediterranean:	
Anguilla	United Kingdom
Bermuda	United Kingdom
British Virgin Islands	United Kingdom
Cayman Islands	United Kingdom
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	United Kingdom
Gibraltar	United Kingdom
Montserrat	United Kingdom
St. Helena	United Kingdom
Turks and Caicos Islands	United Kingdom
United States Virgin Islands	United States

[1] On 26 February 1976, Spain informed the Secretary-General that as of that date it had terminated its presence in the Territory of the Sahara and deemed it necessary to place on record that Spain considered itself thenceforth exempt from any responsibility of an international nature in connection with the administration of the Territory, in view of the cessation of its participation in the temporary administration established for the Territory. In December 1990, the General Assembly reaffirmed that the question of Western Sahara was a question of decolonization which remained to be completed by the people of Western Sahara.

[2] On 20 April 1977, Portugal informed the Secretary-General that effective exercise of its sovereignty over the Territory had ceased in August 1975 and that the only information that could be transmitted would concern the first months of 1975. In subsequent years, Portugal further informed the Secretary-General that conditions prevailing in East Timor continued to prevent it from assuming its responsibilities for the administration of the Territory.

Appendix IV

Territories* that Have Attained Independence or Have Become Integrated or Associated with Independent States since the Adoption in 1960 of the Declaration on Decolonization

State or other entity	*Year of independence or change of status*	*Former administering Power (and former name)*
Angola	1975	Portugal
Antigua and Barbuda	1981	United Kingdom
Bahamas	1973	United Kingdom
Barbados	1966	United Kingdom
Belize	1981	United Kingdom (British Honduras)
Botswana	1966	United Kingdom (Bechuanaland)
Brunei Darussalam	1984	United Kingdom (Brunei)
Cape Verde	1975	Portugal
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	1984[a]	Australia
Comoros	1975	France
Cook Islands	1965[b]	New Zealand
Democratic Yemen[c]	1967	United Kingdom (Aden)
Djibouti	1977	France (Territory of the Afars and the Issas)
Dominica	1978	United Kingdom
Equatorial Guinea	1968	Spain (Fernando Poo and Rio Muni)
Fiji	1970	United Kingdom
Gambia	1965	United Kingdom
Goa and dependencies	1961[d]	Portugal
Grenada	1974	United Kingdom
Guinea-Bissau	1974	Portugal (Portuguese Guinea)
Guyana	1966	United Kingdom (British Guiana)
Ifni	1969[e]	Spain
Jamaica	1962	United Kingdom
Kenya	1963	United Kingdom
Kiribati	1979	United Kingdom (Gilbert Islands)
Lesotho	1966	United Kingdom (Basutoland)
Malawi	1964	United Kingdom (Nyasaland)
Malta	1964	United Kingdom
Mauritius	1968	United Kingdom
Mozambique	1975	Portugal
Namibia	1990	South Africa[f] (South West Africa)
Niue	1974[b]	New Zealand
North Borneo	1963[g]	United Kingdom
Oman	1971	United Kingdom
Saint Kitts and Nevis	1983	United Kingdom
Saint Lucia	1979	United Kingdom
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1979	United Kingdom
Sao Tome and Principe	1975	Portugal
Sarawak	1963[g]	United Kingdom
Seychelles	1976	United Kingdom
Sierra Leone	1961	United Kingdom
Singapore	1965	United Kingdom

State or other entity	*Year of independence or change of status*	*Former administering Power (and former name)*
Solomon Islands	1978	United Kingdom
Suriname	1975	Netherlands (Dutch Guiana)
Swaziland	1968	United Kingdom
Trinidad and Tobago	1962	United Kingdom
Tuvalu	1978	United Kingdom (Ellice Islands)
Uganda	1962	United Kingdom
Vanuatu	1980	France and United Kingdom (New Hebrides)
West New Guinea (West Irian)	1963[b]	Netherlands
Zambia	1964	United Kingdom (Northern Rhodesia)
Zimbabwe	1980	United Kingdom (Southern Rhodesia)

* Does not include Trust Territories.

[a] Integrated with Australia.

[b] Became fully self-governing in free association with New Zealand.

[c] On 22 May 1990 Democratic Yemen and Yemen merged to form a single State, the Republic of Yemen.

[d] Nationally united with India.

[e] Returned to Morocco.

[f] In 1966, the General Assembly terminated South Africa's Mandate and placed the Territory under the direct responsibility of the United Nations until its independence.

[g] North Borneo and Sarawak joined the Federation of Malaya in 1963 to form the Federation of Malaysia.

[h] United with Indonesia.